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## General

Mexico is located in Middle America and borders the U.S. to the N and Belize and Guatemala to the S.

The Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico are the bodies of water to its E and the North Pacific Ocean lies to its W.

The climate in the N is arid to semi-arid and this section of the country tends to experience extremes in temperature.

The S and Yucatan peninsula are tropical climates and are generally humid.

The terrain is high, rugged mountains, low coastal plains, with high plateaus, and desert.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the New Mexican peso, consisting of 100 centavos.

## Firing Areas

**North of Punta Jerez.**—Area bounded by lines joining the following positions:

- 23°30.0'N, 97°42.5'W.
- 23°30.0'N, 97°32.5'W.
- 23°00.0'N, 97°32.5'W.
- 23°00.0'N, 97°42.5'W.

**Vicinity of Roca Portida and Punta Zapotitlan.**—Area bounded by lines joining the following positions:

- 18°52.3'N, 95°05.8'W.
- 18°40.2'N, 95°42.5'W.
- 18°32.2'N, 95°47.5'W.
- 18°42.2'N, 95°10.0'W.

**North of Cayo Arenas.**—Area bounded by lines joining the following positions:

- 22°20.0'N, 91°34.5'W.
- 22°20.0'N, 91°16.0'W.
- 22°10.0'N, 91°16.0'W.
- 22°10.0'N, 91°34.0'W.

## Government

Mexico is a constitutional republic. The capital is Mexico City.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Feb. 5, Constitution Day; March 21, Benito Juarez's Birthday; Good Friday; May 1, Labor Day; May 5, Battle of Puebla; Sept. 16, Independence Day; Oct. 12, Columbus Day; Nov. 2, All Soul's Day; Nov. 20, Revolution Day; and Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

**Industries**

The primary industries are tourism, tobacco, food and beverages, iron and steel, petroleum, textiles, clothing, and motor vehicles.

**Languages**

The official language is Spanish and many dialects of Mayan are spoken.

**Pilotage**

Pilotage is compulsory for all foreign vessels of 500 tons or more entering or departing a port in Mexico. Vessels should forward their ETA as soon as possible. ETD should be sent at least 6 hours prior to sailing.

**Regulations**

All vessels will be boarded on arrival by a health official, the port captain, and a customs officer.

The maritime authorities will require arrival messages to include:

1. Last port clearance.
2. Passenger list.
3. Crew list.
4. Cargo manifest.
5. Deck log book.
6. Customs manifest to be stamped with a visa by a Mexican Consulate or Embassy

On departure, vessels must submit:

1. Request for clearance.
2. List of passengers embarked.
3. Crew list and Articles of Agreement.
4. Stores list.

**Protected Areas**

Areas, protected by Presidential Decree, are established along the coast of the State of Jalisco (20°00'N., 105°00'W.), within the jurisdiction of Naval Zone XII, at Los Arcos, Playa Mismaloya, Playa Teopa, Playa Cuitzamala, and Playa El Tecuan, and in the waters of the coasts and estuaries in their vicinity. In these areas the following is prohibited:

1. Collection, or disturbance, of flora and fauna, on both land and sea.
2. Anchoring.
3. Dumping of hydrocarbons, oil derivatives, and refuse.
4. Fishing.

**Time Zone**

The Time Zone description is SIERRA (+6).

**U.S. Embassy**

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Paseo de la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc, 06500 Mexico, Distrito Federal.

The mailing address is P.O. Box 3087, Laredo, TX 78044-3087.